



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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State WIC Program Encourages Public Comment

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is seeking public input until July 1, 2004, about the state's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Input will be used in the development of an annual operating plan for the federally funded nutrition program. Each month, the North Dakota WIC Program helps more than 13,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children younger than 5 improve their diets and reduce chances of health problems caused by poor nutrition.

"This year, the Department of Health received more than \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund WIC activities," said Colleen Pearce, North Dakota WIC Program director. "With these funds, clients receive nutrition assessments and education at local health agencies and purchase nutritious foods at community grocery stores."

The program provides nutrition education to help WIC families improve their diets, as well as specific foods that help meet nutritional needs during important times of growth and development. WIC also encourages families to participate in other health-care and supportive services.

Written comments about the WIC Program may be submitted until July 1, 2004, to WIC Program; North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity; 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301; Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200. For more information, contact Colleen Pearce at 701.328.2496 or toll free at 1.800.472.2286.

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